

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 EA-11 NEA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 USIA-15 SCEM-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19

RSR-01 /149 W

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R 151607Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6971

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2960

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT ENRG NO US

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER KORVALD

1. I WAS RECEIVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON AUGUST 15 FOR A VERY CORDIAL FAREWELL CALL. MR. KORVALD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO ME FOR ALL THAT I HAD DONE FOR NORWAY AND NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND I, IN TURN, COULD TELL HIM SINCERELY OF MY AFFECTION FOR AND CONTINUING INTEREST IN HIS COUNTRY. WE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE BOMBING HALT IN CAMBODIA, THE POTENTIAL TERMINAL FOR SOVIET NATURAL GAS IN NORTH NORWAY, THE UPCOMING ELECTION AND WATERGATE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ABOUT THE ISRAELI TERRORIST CASE ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

2. IN MY OPENING REMARKS, I REFERRED IN PASSING TO MR. KORVALD'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN REMARKS ABOUT CAMBODIA ON AUGUST 12 (OSLO 2917), TO MAKE THE POINT OF MY DISAPPOINTMENT WITHOUT A FORMAL PROTEST. I COMMENTED THAT OUR BOMBING HAD BEEN SOLELY INTENDED TO PREVENT A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER AND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE ASSISTING CAMBODIA BY NON-CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY MEANS.

3. TO MY QUESTION ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE POSSIBLE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS TERMINAL IN NORTH NORWAY, THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THE SUBJECT WAS UNDER STUDY IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY, DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE INDUSTRY MINISTRY IS INTERESTED IN THE GAS LINE AS A SOURCE OF POSSIBLE ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR NORTHERN NORWAY, BUT THAT SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE WORRIED BY THE PROJECT. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD DISCUSSED THE PROJECT WITH OUR OWN SECURITY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, THAT FEELINGS WERE MIXED ON OUR SIDE, THAT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN BUT THAT I PERSONALLY DOUBTED THE SOVIETS WOULD LEARN MUCH MORE AS A RESULT OF SUCH A PROJECT THAN THEY KNOW ALREADY. MR. KORVALD SAID THAT HE WOULD RATHER NOT CONCENTRATE ALL INDUSTRY AROUND KIRKENES, PREFERRING TO BRING THE PIPELINE TO VARDØ OR VARDØ, BUT HE RECOGNIZED THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM OF LAYING THE PIPE UNDER THE VARANGER FJORD. HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOME OF THE LNG TANKERS WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED IN NORWAY. KORVALD SPOKE (IN ENGLISH) OF THE DESIRABILITY OF WORKING OUT AN "AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE NORWEGIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS BEFORE ANY AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED WITH THE NORTH STAR GROUP. WHILE HE MAY HAVE USED THE WORD LOOSELY FOR "UNDERSTANDING," HE APPEARED TO HAVE IN MIND A FORMAL AGREEMENT COVERING THE SECURITY AND PERHAPS ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF THE UPCOMING ELECTION, MR. KORVALD MADE THE CURRENTLY FAMILIAR DISCLAIMER THAT PREDICTION IS VERY DIFFICULT GIVEN THE NUMBER OF PARTIES. HE IMPLICITLY CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT LABOR HAS A GOOD CHANCE OF WINNING THE ELECTION BY NOTING THE DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING A NON-SOCIALIST MAJORITY SO LONG AS THE NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES CANNOT REACH AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES CONCERNING THE NATURE OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THE ELECTORATE WOULD HAVE TO HEAR SOMETHING MORE DEFINITE FROM THE NON-SOCIALIST SIDE WITHIN THE NEXT FORTNIGHT IF IT IS TO BE WON OVER.

5. EARLY IN OUR CHAT, MR. KORVALD EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN  
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OVER THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF WATERGATE ON AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THE FUTURE OF THE PRESIDENT. I SOUGHT TO REASSURE HIM ON BOTH COUNTS. CROWE

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